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United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean during the period from July 2011 to June 2012.

During the reporting period, the Regional Centre focused its activities on supporting States in combating the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives, which pose serious threats to public security in the region. The Centre provided, upon request, capacity-building assistance, training, legal support, technical assistance and outreach and advocacy functions to ensure the national implementation of global and regional instruments in the areas of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Also during the reporting period, the Regional Centre undertook assistance programmes or packages in response to 13 new requests for assistance from Member States and partners and over 26 requests received during previous reporting periods. The assistance packages comprised more than 53 individual substantive activities.

The Regional Centre provided practical assistance to countries in the region through three such subregional assistance packages and supported the strengthening of capacity of 12 countries in the areas of stockpile management and destruction of small arms and light weapons. The Centre also assisted in the training of some 350 security sector officers in 16 States in combating the illicit trafficking in small arms, ammunition and explosives. Furthermore, it assisted 17 States in reviewing and harmonizing their national legislation on small arms and light weapons. In addition, the Centre contributed to strengthening transparency and confidence-building by

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promoting the participation of States of the region in relevant United Nations instruments, such as the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms and the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures. The Regional Centre also promoted the implementation of various disarmament and non-proliferation instruments related to weapons of mass destruction, including Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to those Member States and other partners that supported the Centre's operations and programmes with financial and in-kind contributions, and calls upon those in a position to do so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to enable it to fulfil its mandate entrusted by the General Assembly.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 66/54, the General Assembly reiterated its strong support for the role of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in the promotion of United Nations activities at the regional and subregional levels to strengthen peace, disarmament, stability, security and development among its member States. The Assembly further expressed its satisfaction for the activities carried out in the past year by the Regional Centre, and requested the Centre to continue to take into account the proposals to be submitted by the countries of the region for the promotion of, inter alia, confidence-building measures, arms control and limitation, transparency, the reduction and prevention of armed violence, disarmament and development at the regional and subregional levels.

2. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution at its sixty-seventh session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and covers the activities of the Regional Centre from July 2011 to June 2012. A financial statement on the status of the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre for 2011 is contained in the annex to the report.

II. Functioning and mandate

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, located in Lima, was established in 1987 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J. It is part of the Regional Disarmament Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The Centre is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States in the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development.

III. Regional context

4. During the reporting period, public and human security as well as armed violence and disarmament themes continued to dominate the national and regional agendas of States in the region. States reaffirmed in various forums their long-standing support for disarmament and non-proliferation and increased their commitment to support programmes designed to combat the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons as well as to prevent and reduce armed violence. While international and regional security concerns dominated the multilateral agenda, public security and human security were among the priorities addressed during electoral campaigns throughout the region. Comprehensive policy programmes on public and human security were proposed with a view to addressing crucial citizen security concerns.

5. States members of the Central American Integration System (SICA) were particularly active in addressing the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and the cycle of armed violence through the implementation of the Central American Security Strategy, launched on 22 and 23 June 2011. The Strategy places specific emphasis on the development of policies, programmes, strategies and actions in order to prevent armed violence, particularly as it relates to youth and

gender-based violence. These objectives are in line with those of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, adopted on 7 June 2006.

6. At the thirty-second Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), held from 30 June to 4 July 2011 in Saint Kitts and Nevis, members adopted the CARICOM Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons. In the Declaration, leaders reiterated the commitment of States to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons through the full implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects[1] of 2001 and, in particular, the management of weapons stockpiles, including the identification and destruction of surplus weapons. Also in the Declaration, leaders affirmed the engagement of CARICOM member States to conclude a legally binding arms trade treaty. The issue of armed violence remains a significant one for the Caribbean region, and it is being addressed by the Armed Violence Prevention Programme, an inter-agency coordination and programming working group of which the Office for Disarmament Affairs and its Regional Centre is a member.

7. The States members of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) intensified their efforts to undertake confidence- and security-building measures, including the compilation of data on military and defence expenditures. On 10 May 2012, UNASUR launched the South American Register of Defence Expenditures, which is a regional complement to the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures.

8. The Andean Community States also pursued their commitment to implementing the Andean Plan to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (Andean decision No. 552). In particular, States developed and implemented national action plans to implement the Programme of Action on Small Arms.

9. On 14 February 2012, the States members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) celebrated the forty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

10. Member States sought the legal, policy and technical assistance of the Regional Centre with a view to strengthening national capacities and effectively addressing the persistent presence and proliferation of small arms and light weapons as well as the levels of arms violence and insecurity. That assistance is in line and coordinated with the various regional and subregional strategies outlined above.

IV. Main areas of activities

11. As the United Nations entity mandated to address disarmament and non-proliferation issues at the regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Centre assisted Member States in their efforts to implement the various global, regional and subregional instruments by strengthening State capacity and providing legal, technical, policy and substantive support. In concrete terms, this

[1] A/CONF.192/15.

support translates into capacity-building and training; legal, policy and technical assistance; and awareness-raising, information and advocacy.

12. The Regional Centre provided assistance to States in the management and the securing of national weapons stockpiles and in the identification and destruction of surplus, obsolete or seized weapons and ammunition. Over the course of the reporting period the Centre strengthened the capacity of nine States in the Andean, Central American and the Caribbean regions and destroyed 3,600 small arms and 7.2 tons of ammunition.

13. In keeping with the award-winning success of its Inter-Institutional Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives and the increasing number of requests from States for such training, the Regional Centre delivered five of the courses in Central America and the Caribbean, resulting in the adoption and integration of the curricula into the academic portfolios of two national professional training institutes. The knowledge imparted and applied by trained officials contributed to ensuring the seizure and interception of illicit weapons, as reported by States.

14. A specialized training course on combating illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives for legal practitioners, adapted by the Regional Centre, was launched for States members of the Andean Community in 2011. By specifically developing this innovative course for justice officers, the Centre responded to numerous requests by States for programmes to reduce the levels of impunity in trial cases of illicit small arms trafficking, to strengthen the capacity of the security sector and to ensure the full implementation of regional and international norms in combating the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons at the national level.

15. Following similar requests for assistance from other Member States, the Regional Centre expanded its legal assistance to address the diverse challenges to public security. The Centre undertook a comparative legal analysis on the control and regulation of private security companies in the region. It also completed 13 legal analyses of the degree of harmonization of national legislation with international instruments on small arms and light weapons and drafted two legal commentaries on proposed national legislation on small arms and light weapons for Central and South America and for the Caribbean.

16. On issues related to weapons of mass destruction, the Regional Centre promoted the national implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments. The Centre launched a new partnership with the Verification Research Training and Information Centre to assist States in the drafting of national legislation related to weapons of mass destruction, in compliance with their treaty obligations. The Centre also supported regional coordination efforts on those issues and continued to provide information and advocacy assistance on those instruments, in particular for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

17. Voluntary contributions from donors continued to be critical in enabling the Regional Centre to carry out these activities and to provide continuous support to the Member States of the region. It is noteworthy that the Centre widened its funding basis by securing new donors, many of which are States of the region.

A. Management of weapons stockpiles

18. Safe and secure stockpile management is a key measure for States to combat the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, in particular by preventing the diversion of weapons into the illicit market. Safer storage facilities improve the safety of personnel and communities by limiting the risk of accidental stockpile explosions that can harm innocent people living in close proximity to military, police, judicial or private security installations. Adequate stockpile management should also include record-keeping, marking and tracing, information management, transparency and good governance.

19. The Regional Centre strengthened and supported the efforts of States to improve stockpile safety and security through the provision of technical assistance and training and the delivery of stockpile management equipment. The Centre also promoted the use by States of inventory management or record-keeping tools, in compliance with international guidelines, best practices and standard operating protocols.

20. The Regional Centre's technical experts collaborated with States to review and implement standard operating protocols in specific stockpile facilities. Eleven voluntary joint assessments were undertaken by the Centre in Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. The assessments were carried out in collaboration with national authorities to evaluate the implementation by States of stockpile management standards. These standards include technical issues such as accounting, inventory management, infrastructure, security, marking, training, fire safety, emergency planning and disposal or destruction. The findings from the assessments contributed to the elaboration of improvement plans that ranged from the overhaul of individual facilities to that of the entire national stockpile management system. In that regard, the Centre assisted in significantly reducing the risk of accidental stockpile explosions in these 11 States as well as in preventing the diversion of small arms and light weapons from legitimate weapon holdings into the illicit market.

21. In August 2011, the Regional Centre supported Guatemala in securing the weapons stockpile facility of the Office of the Public Prosecutor by providing practical and technical recommendations. The majority of weapons contained in the stockpile facility are related to cases awaiting judicial process. By supporting national efforts to safeguard such weapons, the Centre contributed to the prevention of impunity in small arms trafficking cases.

22. Furthermore, 114 security sector officers from Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago were trained on stockpile management, with a particular focus on securing physical location, risk analysis, security measures and accounting. The training course will be shared with other security sector officers in those countries to ensure that universal and standardized practices are employed at the national level.

23. In February 2012, as part of its Caribbean Firearms Destruction and Stockpile Management Assistance Package, the Regional Centre strengthened the security infrastructure of 34 Government stockpile facilities in eight States: the Bahamas, Belize, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. The Centre supplied 320 industrial

padlocks to improve the safety and security of stockpiles and to limit the diversion of weapons into the illicit market.

24. June 2012 marked a milestone for the Regional Centre, with the negotiation of a funding agreement with Argentina to carry out technical assistance for stockpile management within the context of the United Nation Development Assistance Framework. It is noteworthy that the Centre will be implementing an initiative supported and funded by an assistance-recipient State, Argentina, within the "One United Nations" framework. The Centre will provide its technical expertise in assessing seven federal stockpile facilities in Argentina against the Centre's best practices, the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. The assessment will serve as a basis for the development of an improvement plan for managing stockpiles and training stockpile officers. Finally, the assistance will contain a seminar on lessons learned, with the aim of reviewing the progress made in executing the improvement plan.

25. The marking of weapons and ammunition is an additional tool to prevent the diversion of weapons into the illicit market and to address instances of illicit trafficking. In that regard, the Regional Centre integrated the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines on marking and tracing into its stockpile management guidelines to support the technical capacity of States. These technical guidelines will aid in processing requests to trace small arms and ammunition found at crime scenes and confiscated in operations, and in that way will combat illicit trafficking in small arms. The standard operating protocols and guidelines have been integrated into all three of the Centre's Regional Assistance Packages for the Andean, Caribbean and Central American regions.

B. Weapons destruction

26. Weapons destruction is irreversible and thus represents a good practice to ensure that obsolete, surplus or seized small arms and light weapons do not threaten the lives of persons or the security of communities. It is an essential measure that States can adopt, in conjunction with disarmament campaigns, to prevent and reduce armed violence and combat the illicit trafficking in small arms, light weapons, ammunition and explosives. The Regional Centre assists States in their destruction of surplus, obsolete and seized small arms and light weapons in compliance with international agreements, norms and guidelines through the provision of technical assistance and destruction equipment, as well as training.

27. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre contributed to the destruction of 4,690 small arms and 7.2 tons of ammunition, which were thus permanently removed from circulation throughout the region. The Centre trained 205 officers in stockpile management and in weapons and ammunition destruction. It also assisted States in adopting 15 standard operating procedures. The impact of those measures is clear: fewer weapons are available in the streets and there is less probability of diversion into illicit channels. This constitutes a significant contribution to reducing armed violence and thus to creating safer communities.

28. The initiatives on stockpile management and weapons destruction carried out in the Caribbean States were made possible owing to the ongoing financial support provided by the United States of America, while the destruction activities in the Central American and Andean regions were sponsored by Canada, Spain and Sweden.

Small arms destruction

29. In order to assist States in complying with international technical norms for weapons destruction, the Regional Centre drafted the above-mentioned 15 standard operating procedures that strengthen States' capacity to combat illicit small arms in a practical and sustainable way and ensure that international norms are applied at the national level. The Centre integrated the International Small Arms Control Standards into these procedures, which serve to prioritize which weapons need to be destroyed and in which order and provide a technical guide to States on how best to manage weapons inventories, record the loss or recovery of weapons, comply with security requirements during destructions and dispose of waste following destruction. The standard operating procedures developed by the Centre for weapons destruction were implemented by Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

30. At a national public destruction event organized by the Regional Centre, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago presided over the destruction of 1,160 seized and surplus small arms and of 430 magazines. Following their destruction using rotating disc saws, the weapons were smelted at a smelter plant to be converted into recyclable metal.

31. In Jamaica in February 2012, some 1,950 surplus and confiscated small arms were destroyed using a rotary kiln furnace at a local cement factory. The pulverized weapons were then used as a component in the cement mix. This recycling process contributes to economic growth and promotes innovative approaches by the Regional Centre to foster private-public partnerships.

32. In addition, the Regional Centre provided eight Caribbean States with hydraulic shears, a basic piece of small arms destruction equipment. This need for such equipment was identified in the respective national action plans on small arms of States. The shears are an efficient, cost-effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly way of destroying weapons of all sizes and types. These shears will ensure the national ownership and sustainability of weapons destruction capabilities. The Centre trained officers on the use of the hydraulic shears, and a total of 530 weapons were destroyed in the training phase.

Destruction of small arms ammunition

33. In order to address the varying levels of State capacity to undertake weapons destruction, the Regional Centre developed a variety of destruction techniques taking into account cost-benefit analyses and the environmental impact. The Centre designed and commissioned a low-maintenance, low-technology small arms ammunition burning tank, which it provided to four States in the region: the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The burning tank will be used by States in their periodic destruction of certain types of ammunition appropriate for burning. Security sector officers were trained by the Centre to operate the burning tank using the standard operating procedures, which are in line with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

34. Trinidad and Tobago was the first State in the region to make use of the burning tank, in October 2011, to destroy five tons of surplus and confiscated small arms ammunition, followed in April 2012 by an additional 16,860 rounds of ammunition. Six officers from the defence force, police service, coast guard and

prisons service were trained in the operations of the burning tank. Finally, in June 2012, Trinidad and Tobago security forces destroyed 1,130 small arms.

35. In February 2012, the burning tank was used by Jamaican authorities, with the assistance of the Regional Centre, to destroy approximately 12,000 rounds of surplus and confiscated small arms ammunition and to train an officer from the defence force on the standard operating procedures and operation of the burning tank.

36. In December 2011, in Ecuador, the Regional Centre designed and monitored, for the national authorities, the building of a burning tank. Using the burning tank, the Ecuadorian Armed Forces, together with the Centre, destroyed 1.5 tons of obsolete small arms ammunition. Four national officers were trained using the Centre's standard operating procedures relating to the disposal of ammunition and on the use of the burning tank. These officers are preparing to train additional personnel on the use of the burning tank for future destruction events to be carried out independently by this State. Following the success of the initial destruction activities, Ecuador decided to build additional burning tanks to equip major ammunition stockpiles throughout the country.

37. The Regional Centre assisted the national authorities in the Dominican Republic in the destruction of more than 8 tons of small arms ammunition by completing the construction and installation of a burning tank.

38. Each of the above-mentioned States that have received the burning tanks now possess a sustainable national capacity in ammunition destruction, with the appropriate operating procedures and destruction systems, thus contributing to combating the illicit trafficking in small arms and to preventing and reducing armed violence.

C. Capacity-building in the security sector

39. The Regional Centre assisted the States of the region to combat illicit small arms trafficking, in particular their diversion into illicit markets, by providing practical and concrete tools for security sector personnel. The Centre's trainings are aligned with and contribute to the implementation of the regional strategic priorities, such as, inter alia, the Central American Security Strategy developed by SICA member States.

40. During the reporting period, a total of 280 security sector personnel from 13 States were trained using the Regional Centre's Inter-Institutional Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives. Following such a course in El Salvador in July 2011, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean and the UNDP country office, the contents of the Regional Centre's course manual were endorsed by the Academic Council of the National Public Security Academy of El Salvador. Thus the training curriculum will now form part of the permanent training for police officers in El Salvador. This constitutes an additional step in ensuring the sustainability, national ownership and standardization of practical disarmament measures against illicit small arms.

41. In the Dominican Republic, the Regional Centre trained 54 security sector officials in November 2011. The course assisted in enhancing the cooperation

among the various institutions of the national security sector and constituted an essential element in effectively combating illicit trafficking in small arms.

42. Both of the courses were made possible owing to the generous support of the Governments of Spain and Sweden.

43. The Regional Centre adapted and tailored its course to specifically suit the Caribbean region with a view to training security sector officers from that region. This training was conducted by the Centre in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, in partnership with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

44. The first English version of the course manual was launched at the October 2011 Inter-Institutional Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives training in Trinidad and Tobago, at which 62 security sector officers were trained. The manual takes into account the high levels of crime and violence currently observed in the subregion, notably with considerably higher homicide rates than in other regions. Owing to its evident usefulness, the Police Academy of Trinidad and Tobago decided that the course would be permanently integrated into its curricula and academic syllabus.

45. At the national Inter-Institutional Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives training in Jamaica, 57 officers were trained to combat the illicit trafficking in small arms, ammunition and explosives, to prevent licit weapons from entering illicit markets and to reduce the levels of impunity in arms-trafficking cases. In the months following the training in Jamaica, an illicit shipment of arms was successfully intercepted by aviation security officials who had taken part in the January training. This incident prompted the Director of Aviation Security of Jamaica to request the Centre to assist in incorporating the training into airport security training.

46. Following the objectives of the Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and as part of the gender policy of the Regional Centre, the Centre has continued to request States to nominate a minimum number of women security sector officers to take part in all of its training in connection with the Inter-Institutional Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives. This ensures the increased participation of women in peace and security efforts and promotes gender equality in the elaboration and implementation of small arms-related laws and programmes. In that respect, it is worth noting that the Centre's efforts were successful in ensuring the participation of women: Jamaica nominated 19 women officers, representing 33.3 per cent of the number of participants, to take part in the national training. This is the highest percentage of women participants since the start of that training in the Caribbean region.

47. In April 2012, more than 50 security sector officers from 12 Caribbean States participated in the first subregional Inter-Institutional Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives. In addition to including the standard topics, such as practical disarmament measures, small arms investigative techniques, intelligence-gathering, crime scene management and the tracing and preparation of evidence in criminal proceedings, the course also covered cross-cutting issues relating to the use of force, gender awareness and child protection. For the first time, the course incorporated a new module on identifying armed personnel, as well as on conducting container searches at the port of entry. The new

module is the result of a partnership between the Regional Centre and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

48. The Regional Centre is pioneering the integration of a module on small arms control in a maritime border context. This new module is based on requests received by Caribbean States. An expert round table on maritime security was held in Lima in August 2011, with funding from Canada. It developed a pilot version of this module, which was implemented during the subregional Inter-Institutional Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives training for the Caribbean region, held in April 2012. As a result of a second expert round table for Caribbean States in June 2012, with funding from Australia, Canada and New Zealand, the module has been further developed. This second expert round table also served to provide input on the issue of maritime security from a uniquely Caribbean perspective into the second United Nations Small Arms Review Conference, to be held in 2012. Those efforts built on the discussions held by Member States in 2011 during the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Capacity-building for legal practitioners

49. The Regional Centre used the Inter-Institutional Course on Combating Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives methodology to create an innovative four-day specialized training course for justice officers aimed at familiarizing that branch of the security sector with the combat against the illicit trafficking in small arms and at reducing impunity in cases of trafficking. The idea for the course originated from requests by States to address the high levels of impunity in illicit small arms trafficking cases in the region. The course provides justice officers (including judges, prosecutors and other legal operators) with the necessary tools for the effective prosecution of illicit small arms trafficking offences. This strengthens State capacity to effectively implement global and regional small arms instruments. As with all training assistance programmes, the Centre promotes the incorporation of course material and format into the national training curricula. Peru was the first country in the region to benefit from the course in December 2011. Subsequently, the Public Prosecutor of Peru indicated an interest to include the course into the annual training curriculum of justice officials. The Centre has received requests from Member States to implement the course in Central America and the Caribbean States.

D. Legal assistance and policy support

Legal assistance

50. In the absence of adequate legal frameworks, States are unable to properly combat the illicit trafficking in small arms. As called for in the Programme of Action on Small Arms, the harmonization of national legislation with international and regional small arms instruments is necessary to ensure a standardized and effective legal response to this scourge.

51. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre carried out 13 legal studies in Central and South American and Caribbean States. Twelve of the studies were carried out in cooperation with and funding from the Organization of American States (OAS). The Centre further assisted States in revising their existing national

small arms legislation with a view to identifying and addressing legal gaps in legislation and thus avoiding impunity in cases related to illicit small arms trafficking. The Central and South American legal studies were presented in September 2011 and May 2012 within the framework of the meetings of the Inter-American Convention Against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms.

52. The Regional Centre also provided assistance to States in reviewing their draft national legislation on small arms. During the reporting period, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela requested the Centre to provide legal recommendations with a view to improving its national legal frameworks related to small arms. A similar activity was also carried out in the Plurinational State of Bolivia. As a complement to those legal studies and recommendations, in the Dominican Republic, in November 2011, and in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in April 2012, the Centre held national legal workshops with legislators and policymakers to disseminate the draft legislation and outline its legal recommendations as these relate to the international small arms instruments.

53. Following the Regional Centre's legal recommendations on draft national legislation, the Dominican Republic and Panama passed new national legislation on small arms, which incorporated in significant part the Centre's recommendations on the harmonization of these laws with the provisions found in international and regional instruments on small arms. Furthermore, the Centre's legal study for Jamaica issued in 2011 was used as the basis for that Member State's legal and policy reform on armed violence prevention and illicit small arms control. While this reform is still ongoing, preliminary impacts have been reported by national authorities, such as a considerable reduction in murder rates per capita. It is expected that this trend will continue to improve over the short and long term.

54. Parliamentarians, policymakers and members of national commissions on small arms also benefited from the policy support of the Regional Centre, as was the case in Peru and Ecuador in September 2011 at national high-level policy meetings to improve progress in the design and development of national action plans on the implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms. In the case of Ecuador, the Centre focused its technical assistance on designing and implementing national disarmament campaigns. Meanwhile, in Peru, the main objective was to establish a dialogue with the new governmental authorities on approaches to armed violence prevention and reduction and on practical disarmament tools available to combat the illicit trafficking in small arms.

Private security

55. There has been exponential growth in private security companies in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Currently, there are approximately 3 million private security guards employed throughout the region, a high percentage of whom work informally and possess and use between 800,000 and 1.3 million small arms.[2] Operating in parallel to the public security forces, these private agencies have gained such momentum that discussing public security matters without addressing their activities and role throughout the region is no longer possible.

56. In response to requests by Member States for measures to improve their capacity to put in place appropriate legal frameworks to ensure that private security

[2] *Small Arms Survey 2011: States of Security* (Geneva, 2011).

companies operate within the rule of law, the Regional Centre published a comparative legal analysis on the control and regulation of private security companies in the region. The analysis was presented during a seminar on private security and the rule of law in Lima in August 2011. This was the first time that the disarmament community, Government officials and private security representatives had come together to assess the impact of private security companies on combating the illicit trafficking in and proliferation of small arms. This new community of practice also explored minimum standards for stockpile management, oversight, training and regulations relating to the use of small arms by private security companies.

E. Disarmament advocacy

Public security

57. The political expertise and guidance of the Regional Centre was requested in the area of arms control and at public security debates in Andean, Caribbean and Southern Cone States. The Centre's small arms expertise was also shared among security sector reform trainers at the annual meeting of the Association of Security Sector Education and Training, in April 2012. The Centre, using its field perspective experience, contributed to the development of Integrated Technical Guidance Notes on Security Sector Reform by participating in the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force.

58. In October 2011, the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development invited the Regional Centre to share its experience in combating the illicit trafficking in firearms, and in reducing and preventing armed violence, at the Third International Conference on Security and Defence. At the Conference, held in the Dominican Republic, the Centre also engaged in a dialogue with members of regional civil society on citizen and public security issues.

59. In November 2011, the Ministry of Security of Argentina and the UNDP country office invited the Regional Centre to share its expert advice on the role of small arms control and armed violence reduction as they relate to citizen security policies, at a seminar on the planning for and implementing of citizen security strategies in Argentina.

60. The Regional Centre shared its small arms expertise at two meetings sponsored jointly by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung, both held in November 2011, in Colombia. The first meeting was a platform for debate among Latin American parliamentarians on issues of defence and security; the second meeting brought together academics from international and governmental levels, and from non-governmental organizations to discuss the role of police and judicial reform in combating organized crime.

Gender mainstreaming

61. With a view to promoting the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control and of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Regional Centre, in collaboration

with the International Action Network on Small Arms and the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation, conducted a women-only training course for civil society representatives. The training, which focused in particular on women working in the area of arms control, was organized in Lima in September 2011. In particular, the training addressed ways to ensure the participation of women in the elaboration and implementation of small arms-related laws, policies and programmes.

Disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular with regard to weapons of mass destruction

62. The Regional Centre assisted Member States during the reporting period in promoting State accession and adherence to disarmament and non-proliferation instruments and control regimes, in particular those relating to weapons of mass destruction.

63. In November 2011, in Lima, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, through both its Geneva Branch and the Regional Centre, held a regional workshop for the Latin American and Caribbean region on the Seventh Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. The workshop prepared Member States of the region for the Review Conference and identified ways to promote the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention at the national and regional levels.

64. The regional workshop also resulted in the development of a new partnership between the Regional Centre and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre to assist States in the drafting of national legislation related to weapons of mass destruction, in compliance with their treaty obligations. Ecuador became the first recipient of this joint assistance at a legal workshop held in June 2012 to initiate the development of national legislation and discuss the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention in the country. The workshop furthermore raised awareness among representatives from the various ministries on the need to implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), and to develop a comprehensive legal framework for both instruments.

65. In preparation for the Nuclear Security Summit, held in Seoul in March 2012, the Regional Centre participated in a regional meeting in Chile for the purpose of analysing and discussing the core issues of disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear security from an academic perspective. The Centre highlighted the measures required to effectively implement resolution 1540 (2004) and their complementarity and interlinkages to other provisions of weapons of mass destruction instruments, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. The Centre highlighted both the fact that resolution 1540 (2004) specifically addresses the risk of non-State actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction and the contribution of that resolution to the entire non-proliferation regime.

66. The Regional Centre also shared regional experiences in the management of the transfer of sensitive weapons and technologies from a legal perspective, at a meeting hosted by Spain in Madrid in February 2012.

67. The Regional Centre is increasing its cooperation with UNASUR on issues related to trust- and confidence-building measures and the promotion of transparency measures in the region. In May 2012, at a regional confidence-building meeting organized by Ecuador and UNASUR, the Centre elaborated on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, both mechanisms managed by the Office for Disarmament Affairs. At the same meeting, UNASUR member States presented their submissions to the recently created South American Register of Defence Expenditures, a welcome additional transparency instrument that will support the existing United Nations transparency and confidence-building instruments. It is worthwhile noting that since the creation of the Report on Military Expenditures, 25 out of the 33 Latin American and Caribbean States have submitted at least one report to the United Nations.

V. Staffing, financing and administration

A. Finances

68. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J, the Regional Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and voluntary contributions made by Member States and interested organizations to support its core and programme activities. During the reporting period, voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund of the Regional Centre were received in the amount of $1,760,369. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the donors of the Centre for their continued financial support, namely the Governments of Canada, Spain and the United States, and his appreciation for the new donors of the Centre, namely the Governments of Australia, Finland, Germany and New Zealand. The Secretary-General also wishes to express his appreciation for the financial contribution made by OAS to the Regional Centre.

69. The Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to the States of the region that have made financial contributions to the Regional Centre, namely the Governments of Mexico, Panama and Peru. The Centre saw a significant increase in direct financial contributions from Latin American and Caribbean States. This is a clear indication of the value that Member States place in the Centre.

70. The Regional Centre also benefited from close cooperation and joint undertakings with other key partners, such as UNDP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Andean Community, OAS, CARICOM, SICA, UNASUR, the International Action Network on Small Arms, the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre. These partners provided the Centre with both in-kind and financial contributions as well as cost-sharing agreements that significantly assisted the Centre in implementing its activities.

71. In this regard, the Secretary-General wishes to thank Member States and partners for their generous financial contributions to the Regional Centre and encourages the ongoing support to ensure that the Centre would continue to expand both the scope and number of technical assistance activities rendered to Member States.

72. The cost of living in Lima, headquarters of the Regional Centre, has augmented, thus requiring additional resources. In this regard, the Secretary-General

wishes to thank the host country of the Centre for its annual contribution and calls upon Peru to continue to provide the necessary financial support to the Centre in order to offset the rise in its operating costs.

73. Information on the status of the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre for 2011 is contained in the annex to the present report.

B. Staffing and administration

74. During the period covered by the report, the Regional Centre continued to strengthen its team of experts by expanding its roster of technical experts on small arms and stockpile management issues, on weapons destruction, on legal and policy support and on training through a new online platform for potential experts to be included in a roster to be called upon for future activities. Finally, the stable core capacity of the Regional Centre was enhanced through the successful incumbency of two posts: a Political Affairs Officer and the programmatic post of Public Security Programme Coordinator.

75. The Regional Centre launched a communications strategy, which includes the redesign of the website and converting it into a modern disarmament e-resource tool that features a quarterly newsletter and an annual report on the activities of the Centre.

76. The Regional Centre continues to rely solely on voluntary financial contributions to develop and carry out all its programmes in the region in response to requests for assistance from Member States. In this connection, the Secretary-General would like to thank Member States and other donors for providing their valuable support in strengthening and maintaining the Centre's core staff.

VI. Conclusion

77. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre strengthened its close cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in order to continue to promote a coordinated approach to respond to requests for assistance expressed by Member States and to ensure the interplay between the international norm-setting and the national implementation.

78. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre undertook more than 53 substantive activities in the field of public security and disarmament advocacy. It also received 13 new requests for assistance from Member States and partners during the reporting period, while it continued to implement the over 26 requests received during the previous periods.

79. The Regional Centre provided expert assistance to Member States through its integrated approach to combating the illicit trafficking in small arms throughout the region. Activities included the strengthening of capacities in the security sector, technical assistance in stockpile management and destruction, border security and legal and policy support with a view to promoting and facilitating the implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

80. Member States, United Nations partners and regional organizations placed great value in the assistance provided by the Regional Centre, which contributed to

policies and programmes that led to a reduction in illicit small arms and ammunition circulating in the region, an increase in successful weapons seizures and prosecutions in cases of illicit small arms trafficking, and to a renewed commitment by States in their implementation of disarmament and non-proliferation instruments.

81. The Secretary-General reiterates his call to Member States and other partners in a position to do so, to provide the Regional Centre with the necessary financial and in-kind support to ensure that it can continue to carry out its mandate effectively and serve the needs of Member States in the region.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2011

(United States dollars)

Reserves and fund balance, 1 January 2011	**1 645 138**
Income, 1 January-31 December 2011	
Voluntary contributions	1 486 571[a]
Funds received under inter-organizational arrangements	
Interest income	44 860
Other/miscellaneous income	
Total income	**1 531 431**
Expenditures	975 918
Programme support costs	126 869
Total expenditure	**1 102 787**
Reserves and fund balance, 31 December 2011	**2 073 782**[b]

Note: Information based on the statement of income and expenditure for 2011. During the period from 1 January to 22 May 2012, additional contributions totalling $407,481 were received from Canada ($106,610), Finland ($50,000), Germany ($170,001), Spain ($25,870) and the Organization of American States ($55,000).

[a] Contributions totalling $1,486,571 were received from: Canada ($494,245), Guyana ($1,000), Mexico ($10,000), Panama ($4,000), Peru ($30,000), Spain ($167,326), the United States of America ($725,000) and the Organization of American States ($55,000).

[b] Consists of reserves and fund balance, 1 January 2011, plus income received in 2011, less expenditures incurred during the year.